

# The Observer

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## IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



MIKE BERGEN, THE JOLLY BLACKSMITH, PULLED HIS FAVORITE JOKE LATE TODAY.

A man entered a drug store during lunch hour, at which time the druggist was upstairs partaking of his noon-day meal. His wife was relieving him in the store. The customer approached the counter, and said (as she understood it) "I owe de firm fifty cents." She asked him what for, and he simply repeated what he had said, "I owe de firm fifty cents." She told him she would give him a receipt, and her husband would credit it to him, but he said he didn't want a receipt. "I owe de firm fifty cents," he reiterated.

She called her husband down. He, of course, understood immediately. "Idiofoam"—fifty cents worth, that's what he wants.

**EXPERIENCE.**  
From Chicago Tribune.  
I've eaten from the ice box  
Until it's darn near bare;  
I've got the sink piled up so high  
No dishes can go there.

There ain't a button on my shirts;  
My socks ain't got no feet;  
The parrot has the chicken-pox,  
The cat has prickly heat.

The bed ain't made,  
The floor ain't swept;  
My wife ain't home  
And I ain't slept.

They always say that woman frail  
Has quite an easy life.  
Although it may be easy,  
I'm glad I ain't my wife.

**JUST SO.**  
"All the world's a stage."  
"And there's only room for a few  
end men."

We are rapidly approaching the  
time when every section of land will  
have to support a public official in  
addition to the farmer.

Some speakers hush up a talk that  
there isn't any meat in it.

A lot of girls have little trouble  
climbing the ladder of success, be-  
cause so many fellows stand around  
and stare.

If our business is degenerating why  
not try monkey glands.

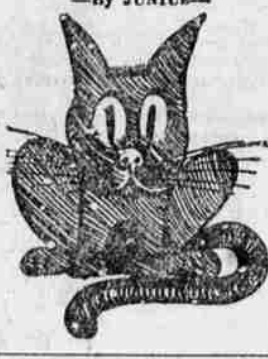
Nobody can see a man who is all  
wrapped up in himself.

The highest form of spending is  
spending self for others.

How true it is we can learn from  
a little child. Little "Johnnie" Gropus  
not quite three, has a deep sympathy  
for every living thing. The other  
morning when he awoke and looked  
out of the window Johnnie saw some  
birds picking in the deep snow. He  
thought they were hungry and insist-  
ed on the birds being fed immedi-  
ately. When Grandma placed some  
crumbs on the porch for these fence-  
ed strangers Johnnie watched them  
with gladness and joy for a long time.

**ALL SET.**  
She—"I wish God had made me a  
boy."  
He—"He did, I'm he."

## THE OFFICE CAT



I take no comfort in my home,  
I am completely quashed,  
I cannot smoke my good old pipe—  
Wife's had the curtains washed.

**AN OLD STUNT.**  
A Virginia editor threatened to pub-  
lish the name of a certain young man  
who was seen hugging and kissing a  
girl in the park unless his subscrip-  
tion to the paper was paid up in a  
week. Fifty-nine young men called  
and paid up the next day, while two  
even paid a year in advance.

Even a sleeping beauty may awak-  
en in an ugly mood if her nap is dis-  
turbed.

He—"He did, I'm he."

## Bible Thought For Today

**NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS:**  
Of a truth I perceive that God is no  
respecter of persons; but in every na-  
tion he that feareth him, and worketh  
righteousness, is accepted with him.—  
Acts 10:34,35.

## Danger Lurks in Tax-Free Securities.

Unless a leveler is put on securi-  
ties abolishing the tax-free feature  
the whole investment game is going  
to become so lopsided and out of  
balance that no one will know what  
to do and chaos will follow. Real-  
izing this fact the Electrical World  
under date of November 12th car-  
ried the following editorial, stressing  
of course electrical securities in  
which it is interested, but laying a  
question before everyone of so vast  
importance that the editorial is  
worth reprinting:

"Before the days of large govern-  
ment expenditures when reckoned in  
millions, not billions, the question of  
tax-exemptions was an academic one.  
Now, however, the total of tax-ex-  
empt securities has grown so large  
as to cause concern, as well it might.  
What with eighteen billions of Lib-  
erty and Victory bonds outstanding,  
one can get some conception of the  
enormity of the problem, and even  
then the tale is only partly told. It  
is conservatively estimated that thirty  
billions (the national wealth of  
Japan is only approximately twenty-  
five billions) is interested in tax-  
exempt securities, and the printing  
press are issuing millions more daily.  
Obviously, if private industry and  
initiative are not to be hampered,  
much less choked, a halt must be  
made; otherwise we shall soon drift  
into a condition of state socialism  
with the government running every-  
thing. This, of course, is un-Amer-  
ican and would not be tolerated for  
one moment. Both England and  
Canada have sensed this danger, and  
in Canada the policy of exemption  
has been abolished without detriment  
to the salability of government bond  
issues, while in England the income  
from government securities issued  
before and during the war is tax-  
able except to non-residents. The  
situation as it exists in this country  
at the present time is such that a  
5 percent tax-exempt security will  
yield a wealthy man as great a re-  
turn as a business enterprise paying  
from 12 to 17 percent.

"While electric public utilities  
have been able to raise many millions  
through the sale of securities locally  
to employees and patrons of the  
company for the erection of new sta-  
tions and transmission lines, they  
must look to wealthy capitalists for  
a greater part of the funds. Hence  
the necessity of a change in a sys-  
tem of taxation which forces the in-  
vestment of large fortunes in tax-  
exempt securities. Within a reason-  
able time, when the industries of the  
country shall move upward, the sum  
total of the financial needs of elec-  
tric public utilities will be very  
great. To the extent that the util-  
ities are hampered in obtaining the  
necessary capital by the competition  
of tax-exempt securities will multi-  
plicity and states be encouraged,  
and stimulated to embark in quasi-  
public enterprises, many of which  
will ultimately end in disaster. The  
function of government is to regu-  
late and not to operate and we ex-  
pect cure the ills of government with  
more government. By placing the  
locus of all bonds on a parity  
the slogan of "Less government in  
business and more business in gov-  
ernment" will be made effective."

Mr. Bryan is reported to have tak-  
en a drink of gin the other day. But  
he calm, brethren! He took it by mis-  
take. Gin does look dreadfully like  
water.

With the announcement from Wash-  
ington that there is a billion dollars  
of hoarded wealth still outside of the  
savings banks, the fake stock pro-  
moters pluck up fresh hope.

Madame Kaji Yajima, who came to  
Washington with an anti-war peti-  
tion signed by 10,000 Japanese women,  
ought to have taken it to Tokio.

"The composer Rossini's eccentric-  
ity," says a stray item, "took the form  
of laziness." A perfectly normal hu-  
man being, we should say!

uses a word that he knew didn't fit.  
He cannot tell you why.

The marvel of railroading in Amer-  
ica is that there are not more blun-  
ders. The heavy death roll of a num-  
ber of years ago has been translated  
into a wonderful record of safety.  
Back of yesterday's wreck is the great  
storm which displaced the usual pre-  
cautions and devices. But for the  
storm and its havoc it is likely that  
the heavy toll of life and limb would  
have been taken in yesterday's trag-  
edy.

A factor in the great safety record  
of American railroads are the train-  
men. Their skill, their prudence, their  
intelligence and their poise are a  
great gift to the American travel-  
ing public, a public that is not always  
mindful of the incomparable service  
the tender alike to passenger and  
railroad owner. The relatives of the  
fireman killed and the engineers and  
firemen injured yesterday know what  
that service is.

Then there are the dispatchers, the  
telegraph operators and the others  
who must have no mental lapse, who  
must be efficient through every single  
moment of the day, who must meet  
their responsibilities without a slip,  
because every day hundreds of thou-  
sands, even millions of lives are in  
their hands.

This is brought home to us by what  
happened yesterday when somebody  
blundered.

Why not let William Randolph  
Hearst build all the battleships he  
wants? And pay for them himself.

The prohibition commissioner has  
asked enforcement agents around the  
country to be less communicative  
Wants the dry agents to dry up, so to  
speak.

## Merry Christmas

Think how much more real mean-  
ing Merry Christmas will have if you  
can be greeted by that in a home of  
your own. No greater present can  
be given the entire family than a  
place they can sing "Home Sweet  
Home" and not serenade the land-  
lord.

Come in and look our list over as  
we have a complete line now. Be  
sure and buy your home early and  
avoid the Christmas rush.

Learn modern home, big lots,  
25x110, good location, home in  
excellent condition. Price \$2000.00

Whenever a catastrophe such as  
the recent Celso wreck occurs the  
fact that man's life and happiness is  
dependent in a large measure on his  
fellows men carrying out their part  
in the complex life of the twentieth  
century without blundering is fur-  
red home. A recent editorial in the  
Oregon Journal clearly sets forth  
how railroad men especially have the  
lives of men and women at stake ev-  
ery hour and every minute of the day  
they render alike to passenger and  
freight.

Sombody blundered. The price is  
10 cent and 50 injured. The wreck  
and wreckage of commerce and indus-  
try are mostly caused by somebody's  
blunder. The man-careless here or  
there, a little slip of attention, a feel-  
ing suspension of thought, and that  
comes the crash.

Even the human being who makes  
the slip cannot explain it. A skilled  
operator sometimes, by an instant's

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Sir Julius Benedict

10021—Les Filles de Cadix (The Maids of Cadix)  
in French.....Delibes

10015—Old Folks at Home (Swanee River) Foster  
Violin Obligato (Dvorak's Humoresque)  
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**PRICE \$9.50**  
These are Armstrong make—our finest of high grade shoes. We invite you here to see them.

**HANDKERCHIEFS**  
In Christmas Boxes of Three  
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—Neatly packed with each em-  
broided corner showing—tied  
with a ribbon and in a very at-  
tractive box, already for giving.  
There are three handkerchiefs in  
each box—all embroidered in a  
different design. Some are in  
colors. A very practical and dainty  
gift for any woman. See window.

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France" first—if its for a gift. She'd  
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